

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS CORPSMATTERS

The Online Newsletter for CCC Alumni



February 2006



On the Frontline of the Floods

Heavy winds and rains over the holiday season provided another test of the CCC's flood fighting response capacity. On December 29th all available crews were prepared for deployment. When the Department of Water Resources put in an urgent request for assistance on the 30th, the CCC responded immediately. From December 30th through January 2nd, a total of 125 CCC personnel were dispatched, many of whom worked around the clock through the New Year. CCC crews filled close to 50,000 sandbags, fought boils, repaired levee leaks, and eliminated much overtopping in the Delta. While most of the flood fighting effort occurred in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, CCC crews responded as far south as Venice Beach in Los Angeles County and as far north as Ukiah in Mendocino County. The Department of Water Resources has stated that the CCC's work saved local businesses, farms and property owners many millions of dollars in potential damage.

From CCC Director Will Semmes

Dear Former Corpsmember,

I am happy to present the first-ever issue of *Corps Matters*, the on-line newsletter for CCC Alumni. *Corps Matters* is the first step in the development of an exciting alumni program that will provide a lasting link between former corpsmembers like yourself and the CCC. We envision the alumni program, once fully established, will offer a number of benefits, including:



- Keeping alumni informed about our activities and accomplishments.
- Providing opportunities to stay involved and assist current corpsmembers through volunteer efforts with local centers and participation in our events.
- Offering networking opportunities with other alumni as well as our staff.
- Assisting with job searching and career opportunities.

Currently we are developing a new and sophisticated webpage and database that will allow alumni to get in touch with former colleagues and contact fellow alumni with similar professional interests. Until the new webpage is complete, I encourage you to visit our current alumni registry (<http://www.ccc.ca.gov/ALUMNI2/alumnlogin.asp>) in order to register or update your profile. (Note: once the new database is developed, we will be able to transfer your profile from the current format to the new one.)

In the meantime, enjoy this issue of *Corps Matters* to learn about the exciting events in which the CCC has been involved. Because this newsletter and this alumni program are in the developing phases, your feedback is greatly appreciated. Please direct any suggestions or thoughts as to how this program could benefit the department, the corpsmembers, or alumni to alumni@ccc.ca.gov. Finally, I need your help getting the word out. Simply put, the more alumni we have involved, the more successful this program will be. So be sure to tell all your friends and former colleagues to register and be a part of the network of proud Californians who not only survived, but thrived under the CCC's hard work, low pay, and miserable conditions!

Best Regards,
Will

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ CCC Crews Helps Hurricane Rita Victims
- ◆ On the Frontline of the Floods
- ◆ CCC Provides Assistance to Pakistan
- ◆ Congrats to Our Newest CCC Alumni!

CCC Crews Helps Hurricane Rita Victims

On September 30th, 2005, the CCC received a request through California's Office of Emergency Services for crews to help the citizens of Vernon Parish, Louisiana recover from the devastation of Hurricane Rita. This unprecedented request came through the federal Emergency Mutual Aid Compact, which Governor Schwarzenegger had signed just weeks before. On October 1st, eight CCC crews from around the state and a contingent of support staff from Headquarters left their staging area at the Inland Empire Center in San Bernardino and drove 1,800 miles in a convoy of CCC vehicles to Leesville, LA. Once there, they immediately began work and removed debris and fallen trees around Vernon Parish for two weeks.

The operation was an overwhelming success, earning the CCC national recognition for its hard work and professionalism. As the Vernon Parish Police Jury expressed, "The CCC has done two years of work in the two weeks they have been here. Thank you, thank you very much." The corpsmembers were equally impressed with the inhabitants of Vernon Parish who had been so badly affected by the disaster: "If we had traveled 1,800 miles just to help Ida and Mable, then the whole trip would have been worth it."-**Mark Bailey**, CCC Crew Supervisor.



CCC Crews in Louisiana

Congratulations to Our Newest CCC Alumni!

The following corpsmembers from the Norwalk and Los Angeles satellites have recently been hired full-time by the California Department of Transportation: **Tivolee Rivas**, **Edrick Cantrell**, **Shavonne Lewis**, **Tim Jeffries**, and **Paul Benson**. The CCC wants to thank you for all your hard work and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!

CCC Provides Assistance to Pakistan

On October 8, 2005 a 6.7 magnitude earthquake destroyed much of the northwest region of Pakistan, killing over 70,000 people and leaving millions jobless and homeless. Relief International, a Los Angeles-based international aid organization, was one of dozens of agencies to respond to the disaster. With an extraordinary level of need and only limited resources, Relief International turned to the California Conservation Corps for help on the ground. The CCC responded by deploying three staff members to Manshera, Pakistan for a combined period of two months. **Larry Notheis**, **Chris Skopec**, and **Panama Bartholomy** facilitated food distribution and emergency shelter projects that aimed to benefit over 90,000 people affected by the earthquake. This unprecedented public/private partnership was made possible in part thanks to the support of the [California Conservation Corps Foundation](http://www.ccccf.org).



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

In future newsletters we would like to include a segment to highlight former corpsmembers who have gone on to interesting and successful careers after the CCC. If you would like to be considered for the spotlight or would like to nominate a fellow alum, please send an email to alumni@ccc.ca.gov with the subject line "alumni spotlight".